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17 October 1953

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Copy No. 01

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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 31
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☒
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2009
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 20/12/79 REVIEWER:

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DOS REVIEW
COMPLETED

Office of Current Intelligence

DIA review(s)
completed.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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25X1

25X1A

SUMMARY

25X1

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- ✓ Comment on resolution passed by Vietnam "National Congress" (page 4).

SOUTH ASIA

- 5. Britain concerned over proposed American military grant to Pakistan (page 5).

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

- 6. Comment on Israeli reprisal raid on Jordanian village (page 6).

WESTERN EUROPE

- ✓ Pella disturbed over parliamentary reaction to Trieste situation (page 6).
- 8. Danes affirm intention to deliver tanker to USSR (page 7).

- 2 -

25X1A

17 Oct 53

25X1A

25X1

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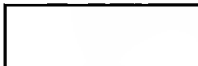
25X1



SOUTHEAST ASIA

4. Comment on resolution passed by Vietnam "National Congress":

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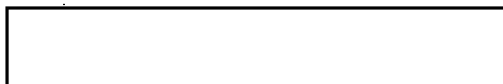


The resolution of the Vietnamese "National Congress" rejecting participation in the French Union while approving an alliance with France for a period to be determined by Vietnam.

25X1A

- 4 -

17 Oct 53



25X1A

may push Bao Dai into an uncompromising position similar to that of the king of Cambodia.


The congress is an ad hoc body called by Bao Dai to designate a list of persons from which he would select advisers for forthcoming negotiations with the French. Its resolution has no legal force and goes beyond the congress' severely limited terms of reference.

If Bao Dai supports the resolution, there is a prospect of increasingly bitter relations between his government and France. His position in Vietnam relative to his political rivals, however, is such that he can scarcely repudiate such a strong and authoritative expression of Vietnamese nationalism.

SOUTH ASIA

5. Britain concerned over proposed American military grant to Pakistan:

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 According to the American embassy in London, the British government is very concerned over the American proposal to grant military aid to Pakistan, and would probably be reluctant to use its good offices to mitigate any Indian reaction.

The embassy reports that a Commonwealth Relations Office paper on the subject states that the Indian reaction will probably be sharp and that the proposal is awkwardly timed in relation to both Kashmiri and Korean developments.

Comment: Britain has sought to avoid even the appearance of favoritism or preference in giving military assistance to India and Pakistan, for fear of further complicating intra-Commonwealth relations.

- 5 -

25X1A

17 Oct 53



NEAR EAST - AFRICA

6. Comment on Israeli reprisal raid on Jordanian village:

25X1A

[redacted] The Israeli attack on a Jordanian village on 14 October is provoking unusually strong local reactions but is not likely to lead to new Arab-Israeli hostilities. Jordanians have been so angered that the foreign minister told the American charge in Amman that the Western powers must "do something drastic" to forestall panic.

25X6

This attack and other recent [redacted] Israeli actions make peace settlements impossible in the foreseeable future. This situation, in the opinion of the charge in Amman, precludes any Israeli-Jordanian agreement to discuss the water-development project as envisaged by Eric Johnston's mission which is en route to the Near East.

WESTERN EUROPE

7. Pella disturbed over parliamentary reaction to Trieste situation:

25X1A

[redacted] Discussing the Trieste question with Ambassador Luce on 15 October, Italian premier Pella expressed concern over the parliamentary and public reaction to the current tripartite conference in London. Pella predicted a government crisis in Rome if there were any announcement or impression from London that the 8 October plan had been abandoned in whole or in part or was in effect plain partition.

Pella stated that any indication that his government had accepted a de facto Zone A - Zone B solution would cause its downfall. He added that if Tito was not bluffing in his threats, Italy "would defend itself."

- 6 -

25X1A

17 Oct 53

25X1 Meanwhile, however, the American army attache in Rome reports that the Italians are less tense and have made fewer military preparations in the Trieste border area than they did in early September. [redacted] no reserves have been recalled, and leaves have not been cancelled.

Comment: The Trieste question will almost certainly be raised when Pella addresses the Senate on 19 October, closing the debate on the foreign affairs budget.

8. Danes affirm intention to deliver tanker to USSR:

25X1A

[redacted] Danish foreign minister Hansen on 15 October handed Ambassador Coe a note affirming that the tanker constructed for the USSR will be delivered on 21 October. The note stated that delivery was necessary in order to avoid political friction or possible interruption of Denmark's vital trade with the Soviet bloc. It expressed the hope that Washington would weigh these factors and grant exception to the Battle Act as in the case of the first tanker.

Comment: This 13,000-ton tanker is the second of the two contracted for in mid-1948 for delivery before the end of 1953. Although COCOM controls prohibit the sale of tankers to the Orbit, the Danes claim exemption from this limitation on the grounds of their prior commitment.

17 Oct 53

25X1A

[redacted]